TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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November 19, 2012

Captain C. R. Pietras
Program Manager, Navy Inactive Ships Program, PMS 333
Department of the Navy
Naval Sea Systems Command
1333 Isaac Hull Avenue
Washington Navy Yard DC 20376-2701

Re: Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Antiquities Code of Texas, repair of the Battleship TEXAS, Houston, Harris County, Texas (Navy/106/SAL, THC Track 201301759)

Dear Captain Pietras,

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, which is also the agency responsible for administering the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The review staff, led by Kelly Little and Mark Denton, has completed its review of the information provided, received on October 26, 2012. It is our understanding that the Navy requests concurrence on its amended effect determination for the undertaking at the Battleship Texas. Our office previously concurred with the Navy's finding that the undertaking, namely the dry berthing of the Battleship Texas, could adversely affect the ship and the San Jacinto Battleground, both of which are historic properties. During consultation for the above undertaking, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) determined that it would not be able to pursue the dry berth project in the immediate future due to a lack of financing. As a result, TPWD determined that the ship needed to undergo major repairs to preserve the ship and avoid further deterioration.

Because the undertaking currently encompasses only repairs to the ship rather than construction of a dry berth, the Navy has amended its previous finding to reflect its new determination that repair of the Battleship will not adversely affect the ship or the San Jacinto Battleground. The SHPO **CONCURS** that the repair work as proposed will not adversely affect historic resources. We look forward to completion of the pending Programmatic Agreement for the repairs, which clarifies that work to the ship shall adhere to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Vessel Preservation Project*, establishes a shore-side area for temporary construction activities, and lays out consultation procedures for any unforeseen circumstances that may arise once work is underway.

As the Battleship Texas and San Jacinto Battleground are also designated State Archeological Landmarks under the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resources Code, Title 9, Chapter 191 and Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Chapter 26), our agency will work directly with TPWD on a permit for the proposed work.

Thank you for your cooperation in this federal and state review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. **If you have**



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any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Kelly Little at 512/463-7687.

Sincerely,

Kelly Little, Project Reviewer

For: Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer

MW/kl

cc: Tuwana Cummings, U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command

Michael Strutt, Director, Cultural Resources Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Neil Thomas, Project Manager, Infrastructure Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Christine Whitacre, Program Manager, Heritage Partnerships Program, National Park Service James S. Poles, Environmental Project Manager, U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command, via email Janet Wagner, Chair, Harris County Historical Commission, via email Bruce Bramlett, Executive Director, Battleship TEXAS Foundation, via email Chad Burke, CEO, Economic Alliance, Houston Port Region, via email Jeff Nilsson, Executive Director, Historic Naval Ships Association, via email Garry McMahan, Program Manager, Port of Houston Authority, via email Jan DeVault, President, San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy, via email Casey Borowski, Director, San Jacinto Historical District, via email Larry Spasic, President, San Jacinto Museum of History Association, via email Ronald Brown, President, Sons of the Republic of Texas, San Jacinto Chapter, via email Tammie Nielsen, District Director, State Representative Ken Legler, via email Jeff Dunn, consulting party, via email

John R. Ward, consulting party, via email

Admiral Will Fisher, Texas Navy Association, via email

Nancy T. Burch, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, San Jacinto Chapter, via email

Tony Gregory, Chairman, Battleship TEXAS Foundation, via email

Cecil Jones, Board of Directors, San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy, via email

Amanda Peters, Chief of Staff, State Representative Wayne Smith, via email

Andy Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, via email

Russell Kuykendall, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, via email

Scott Triebes, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, via email

Justin Rhodes, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, via email

Patty Matthews, AECOM, via email

Leslie Pompa, Crouch Environmental Services, Inc., via email